

# COVID-19

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Use of Public Beaches

Here is what to expect when you visit a Public Beach

Be prepared. Check [beaches.lacounty.gov](https://beaches.lacounty.gov) to see which areas or services are currently open.

### PREPARE BEFORE YOU VISIT THE BEACH:

- **Everyone must wear a mask except while in the water, or eating or drinking.**
  - Your mask should have at least two layers of tightly woven, breathable material. It must fully cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose.
  - The only exceptions are children under 2 or anyone who has been told by a doctor that they cannot wear a mask safely. Note: people with most underlying conditions (asthma, for example) can safely wear masks but if you cannot, go to the DPH [mask](#) page for alternatives.
- **Practice [physical \(social\) distancing](#).**
  - Stay at least 6 feet from others who are not part of your household, in and out of the water.
  - If you have small children with you keep them close by, at least 6 feet from others.
- **Avoid crowded areas and crowding around others at the beach.**
  - You may gather with members of 1 or 2 other households as long as you practice social distancing and other precautions. See the [Small Private Gatherings](#) guidance for more information.
- **Do not share beverages or food with others that are not part of your household. Do not share toys, equipment or snorkels with others that are not part of your household.**
  - Bring what you need with you, such as water, snacks, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, and wipes.
  - Explain to children how to stay safe while having fun at the beach.
- **Remember to practice good hand hygiene.**
  - Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Beach bathrooms should be open. Don't forget to follow physical (social) distancing in the bathroom.

### AT THE BEACH:

- Follow all rules, regulations, and any posted access restrictions.
- Parking is allowed at beach parking lots at the discretion of the local jurisdiction. Be sure to comply with all regulations.
- Bike paths on the beach are open and can be used.
- Organized sports leagues or teams may use the beach for sports activities, including competitions, in compliance with County Reopening [Protocol for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports Leagues](#). Note that spectators are only allowed for youth sports, and spectators are limited to immediate household members for age-appropriate supervision. Events such as tournaments are not allowed on the beaches.

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- Beach and surf camps are permitted and must follow the public health [day camp protocol](#). Sports camps, like volleyball, are permitted and must follow both the day camp protocol and the County [Protocol for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports](#).
- Private lessons, such as surfing lessons, may be conducted on the beaches, in compliance with the County [Protocol for Limited Services](#).
- No grills or open fires, including bonfires, are allowed on the beach.

**Our treasured beaches are open! Everyone is encouraged to participate in outdoor activities at the beach, as long as safety precautions are followed. It is up to all of us to make it work.**

- If a lifeguard reminds you about physical distancing or wearing a mask, remember that they are protecting you and your family, other visitors, themselves, and the public. They are doing their job.
- Follow the simple rules noted above; they are based on science and reflect research from all over the world about what it takes to stay safe.

**Have a great visit, enjoy, and don't forget the sunscreen!**